

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1192

By Kane

A RESOLUTION to honor HOPE for Victims of Knoxville.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to recognize a nonprofit organization that is an ardent and effective advocate for victims of crime and their loved ones, offering hope for today and a brighter, safer tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, HOPE (Help Others Persevere Encourage) for Victims was founded by Mike and Joan Berry after their daughter, Johnia, was murdered in 2004; and

WHEREAS, HOPE for Victims is composed of surviving victims of crime and their families and surviving family members of victims who are searching for answers in unresolved cases or seeking justice through the legal system; and

WHEREAS, HOPE for Victims utilizes the shared connection among surviving family members of victims of crime to create a bridge of understanding and compassion; members share memories and experiences, vent their frustrations, ask questions, and give each other friendship, support, and, most of all, hope; and

WHEREAS, the mission of HOPE for Victims is fourfold: speaking on behalf of victims' rights; providing support groups for families and friends of victims; advocating for legislative initiatives relative to equal rights for victims, better tools for law enforcement, and truth-in-sentencing; and increasing public awareness in order to balance the scales of justice; and

WHEREAS, on the legislative front, HOPE for Victims successfully lobbied for the passage of the Johnia Berry Act of 2007 by this General Assembly; thanks to HOPE for Victims, persons arrested for violent felony offenses must now submit to DNA sampling, thus improving crime detection; and

WHEREAS, HOPE for Victims also successfully lobbied for the passage of Tennessee's Victim Life Photo law, which makes photographs of murder victims admissible in State courts; and

WHEREAS, HOPE for Victims supports a righteous cause and provides solace to those who most need support and understanding, victims and surviving family members and friends of victims; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend HOPE for Victims of Knoxville for its ongoing support of victims of crime and their families, as well as their advocacy for measures to enhance victims' rights, improve law enforcement and crime detection, and increase public awareness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.